

# Pierrepont Gamston Primary School (Voluntary Aided Church School)



## ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS AND SUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2009/2010

### Introduction and General Information

The School was built in 2001 to serve the children and families of the Gamston estate and those living in the settlements previously served by St Edmunds Church of England School. The admission criteria and arrangements intend to give the fairest opportunity for local pupils to gain a place at what has become a very popular school. As this is a Voluntary Aided school the Governors are also able to consider applications from outside of the catchment area, but recent experience indicates that community places have been fully taken by pupils who are siblings or who live quite close to the school.

### First admission – at the agreed date before the child's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Parents who wish their child to be educated at Pierrepont Gamston Primary School should inform the school as soon as possible. A school prospectus, a Local Authority (LA) common application form and a copy of our supplementary application form will be sent out to parents on <date> December 2008. Completed forms should be returned to the LA offices before 12 noon on the closing date of <date> January 2009. All applications will be considered at the next meeting of the school's Governing Body and prioritised according to the published Admissions Criteria. The result of the Governors' decision will be given to the LA who will relay this to parents on the standard date, <date> March 2009. Parents whose child has been offered a place will be given details of the next stage in the process. Parents whose children are not offered a place will be advised of the procedure for appealing against the decision, and how to place their child's name on the waiting list.

### Transferring from another school (Admissions outside of the normal round)

Parents who wish their child to transfer to Pierrepont Gamston Primary School from another school should firstly speak with the Head Teacher of the present school. They should then contact Pierrepont Gamston Primary School and ask to be sent a copy of the current prospectus and an application form. The completed application form should be returned as soon as possible. This application will be considered at the next meeting of the school's Governing Body according to the published Admissions Criteria. The result of the Governors' decision will be given to the parents in writing as soon as possible following the meeting. Parents whose child has been offered a place will be given details of the next stage in the process. Parents whose children are not offered a place will be advised of the procedure for appealing against the decision and informed how to place their child's name on the waiting list. Children of nomadic travellers moving into the catchment area will be allocated a place as soon as reasonably practicable if one is available.

### Subscription Criteria

As a Church Aided School we have a concern, in the name of God, both to nurture Christian children in their faith, and to serve the wider community of which we are part. We aim to be distinctively Christian, but also fully inclusive. The following criteria therefore offer places to children of all faiths and of no faith, but presume a willingness on the part of parents to embrace the ethos of the school on behalf of their children.

In the event of over-subscription the following criteria will be applied in the published order, provided that the application has been received before the published closing date for applications. Any applications received after the closing date will be considered after all those that were received on time (including applications for which the school is not the first preference). 30 places are available in the intake year i.e. for pupils to be admitted to school for the first time. The existing 30 places in other years are largely taken. In the event of over-subscription within any of the following criteria, priority will normally be given to applicants who live nearest to the school, with distances measured 'as the crow flies' from the main entrance door of the child's home address to the main entrance door of the school, using the Local Authority software, currently "Arcview". All applicants will first be considered for a Community place, in accordance with the criteria in Paragraph 1 below. If unsuccessful, any applicants who have also applied for a Foundation place will then be considered for such in accordance with the criteria in Paragraph 2.

#### **1. Community Places (at least 80% of the total places available in any admission year)**

1.1.Places will be allocated to applicants who live in the catchment area and who at the time of admission will have a brother or sister\*<sup>1</sup> attending the school.

1.2.Places will then be allocated to applicants who live outside the catchment area, but who at the time of admission, will have a brother or sister\*<sup>1</sup> attending the school.

1.3.Places will then be given to other applicants who live in the catchment area.

1.4.Places will be then be allocated to other applicants who live outside the catchment area.

## **2. Foundation Places (no more than 20% of the total places available in any admission year)**

For each of the following criteria preference will be given to those applicants who have expressed a wish for Church school education and who can demonstrate a commitment to this. Parents will explain their commitment by completing extra questions on a supplementary application form. Parent(s) and child(ren) must have attended a place of worship, within Churches Together in England, at least monthly on average over the past two years, in order to be considered for a Foundation Place. Additional preference will be given to those who also attended other activities outside of Sunday services during the last two years. A reference will be sought from the family's church minister to confirm their frequency of attendance.

2.1. Places will be allocated to applicants who live in the catchment area and who at the time of admission will have a brother or sister\*<sup>1</sup> attending the school.

2.2. Places will then be allocated to applicants who live outside the catchment area, but who at the time of admission, will have a brother or sister\*<sup>1</sup> attending the school.

2.3. Places will then be given to other applicants who live in the catchment area.

2.4. Places will be then be allocated to other applicants who live outside the catchment area.

*\*<sup>1</sup> The term 'brother or sister' includes all children normally resident in the same household who are regarded as members of the same family.*

## **Special Circumstances**

The following groups of children will be given special consideration in their application for a place at the school;

- Children who have a statement of special educational needs in which this school is named will be admitted. This will reduce the number of places available to other applicants.
- Children in public care (Relevant Looked After Child, as described in Section 22 of the Children Act 1989) will be admitted which will reduce the number of places available to other applicants.
- Children who have other particular medical needs, mobility support needs, special educational needs, or social circumstances which are supported by written evidence from a doctor, social worker or other relevant professionals at the time of application. The definition of special educational need will relate to a learning difficulty which calls for special educational provision to be made for the child. Each case will be determined on its own merits. Taking account of the special circumstances the Governors may accord a higher priority to the applicant with regard to any or all of the above criteria.

## **Appeal Arrangements**

Under the terms of the School Standards and Framework Act 1988, parents have the right to make a formal appeal against the Governors' decision not to admit. For an appeal to be successful parents will need to prove that the decision to refuse a place was not one that a reasonable admission authority would make, or that a child would have been offered a place if the published admission arrangements had been properly implemented. In order to appeal parents should write within twenty-one days of the date of the refusal letter to:

Mr John Gardiner (Diocesan Registrar), Rothera Dowson Solicitors  
2 Kayes Walk, Stoney Street, The Lace Market, Nottingham NG1 1PZ.

## **Admission Arrangements**

There will be two planned intakes to the Reception Class during the academic year 2009/2010.

**Intake One:** Children who were born 01/09/2004 to 31/03/2005 (inclusive) will be able to start school at the beginning of the September term 2009.

**Intake Two:** Children who were born 01/04/2005 to 31/08/2005 (inclusive) will be able to start school at the beginning of the January term 2010.

## **Waiting List**

Parents who are unsuccessful in their application, may ask for their child's name to be placed upon a 'Waiting List', and request that they are informed if a place subsequently becomes available. The Waiting List does not give priority to applicants who applied before the published closing date for applications. Names can be added to the Waiting List at any time before the date for such names to be removed, as prescribed below). The order of the Waiting List will be determined in accordance with the criteria referred to above, and will be reconsidered each time a new application is received.

Names on the Waiting List will be removed and the Waiting List closed in accordance with the timescale described in the Nottinghamshire LA Primary Co-ordinated scheme.